

Detective Neal is happily married to Anthony Neal (whom she met on 09/11/2001), and has a 5 year old son Jaylen. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Detective Izora Neal for her pursuit of excellence in the field of law enforcement.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2011*

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 842 I voted "no" but intended to vote "yes".

#### RECOGNIZING THE FIRST ANNUAL NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

### HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2011*

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to offer my support of the first ever National Rural Health Day.

My district is home to five rural hospitals, Deckerville Community Hospital, Harbor Beach Community Hospital, Marlette Community Hospital, Scheurer Hospital and McKenzie Memorial Hospital.

Thanks to these hospitals, my constituents, as well as 62 million Americans living in small towns and rural communities across the United States, have greater access to medical services and comprehensive care near the communities where they live.

During my time in Congress, I have been proud to support rural hospitals in my district. I took a leading role in helping to complete the Thumb Rural Health Network's wireless communications system. This infrastructure links all eight of the rural hospitals serving Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola Counties, in order to create greater communication about patient care between this region's hospitals and allow for more medical consultation from specialists from other Michigan facilities via remote technology.

I believe that it is critically important for all Michigan residents to have access to quality health care services, and I know that each rural hospital is continually looking for innovative and resourceful ways to reach this goal despite geographical obstacles.

In my district, rural hospitals account for nearly 1,000 jobs. In a time of economic uncertainty and rising unemployment that has hurt Michigan businesses and families, I am encouraged by the many benefits rural hospitals bring to the communities they serve.

I would like to praise rural hospitals on National Rural Health Day and extend my thanks for the work they do for our communities in my district, as well as across the Nation.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO JOHN P. AMERSPEK

### HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2011*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, last week, our Nation paused to mark Veterans Day. America's soldiers, sailors, Marines and Airmen and Airwomen have always responded to the call of duty in defense of our great nation. These dedicated members of our community deserve our endless thanks, not only on Veterans Day, but at every single opportunity that we can show them our gratitude.

Therefore, my colleagues, it is quite fitting that I call to your attention the dedicated service of one member of the "Greatest Generation." John P. Amerspek of Succasunna, New Jersey, will be celebrating the 90th anniversary of his birth this week and I invite you to join his family and friends in thanking this great American for his many contributions.

Like so many of his generation, John Amerspek knew the necessity of accepting one's responsibilities and was willing to make sacrifices for his country. As troops of the World War II era were known to say: "if the country is good enough to live in, it's good enough to fight for."

Thus, John found himself in the United States Army's 3rd Division, far from home, fighting one of the most controversial, yet least publicized, major engagements of World War II—the Anzio Beachhead in western Italy.

It was a brutal campaign, but essential to eventual Allied victory in Europe. The two German corps engaged on the Anzio front were originally destined for Normandy. The success of the Allied landings on the beaches in France in June 1944 were due largely to the tenacity of the Allied forces at Anzio.

But the price of this crucial victory was high. Allied forces suffered nearly 87,000 casualties. In one measure of the courage and sacrifice of those who fought there, 22 Americans were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the most of any single battle of World War II.

John was there from the beginning. He was wounded twice and discharged himself from a field hospital so he could return to the fight with the mates in his own unit. As John says matter-of-factly, "I was one of the very fortunate ones that not only survived Anzio, but the many campaigns to follow. I would never regret the experience, but would never like to experience it again."

John's units were the first to liberate Rome. And then it was off to the Island of Corsica, Southern France, the Alsace Lorraine, the Vosge Mountains, crossing the Rhine into Germany and finally into Salzburg, Austria.

In the course of this extended personal campaign, John Amerspek was among the liberators at the infamous Dauchau concentration camp. In late April 1945, American troops found approximately 32,000 prisoners, crammed 1,600 to each of 20 barracks, which had been designed to house 250 people each. Nearly 32,000 people were exterminated at this camp, which John appropriately called the "Dauchau Horror Camp."

After the war, John returned home to New Jersey, took advantage of the GI bill and eventually began 60 years of official and unofficial professional support of the Army's

Picatinny Arsenal—an invaluable national military resource and the home of American firepower.

An expert in all phases of military program management including the development of new concepts through research and development, cost control, field service, production and budgeting, he rose to senior leadership positions at Picatinny. His goal was always to provide our warfighters with superior firepower from a wide range of weapons for infantry, artillery, mortars, rockets, missiles and aircraft-launched munitions. There is no doubt that his material and management contributions strengthened the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force.

John ended his formal government career in 1981 after 40 years of uniformed and civilian service. He went on to continue his contributions to our great military in various senior roles with the National Defense Industrial Association, the Army ARDEC Advisory Board, among other organizations. His awards are too numerous to list.

It should suffice to say that in 2004, Picatinny's Armament Research Development Engineering Center, ARDEC, named its headquarters' executive conference room after John Amerspek.

Today as senior military and civilian leaders enter the conference room, they pass a simple bronze plaque, bearing his likeness and the phrase "Soldier, Leader, Patriot, 1942–1981."

Anyone who has had the privilege of knowing John Amerspek, understands that he fits those descriptions precisely.

Having just marked Veterans Day and as we prepare for the Thanksgiving season, it is fitting that all Americans give thanks for the service of John Amerspek and all of his fellow soldiers, leaders and patriots—past, present and future.

#### A TRIBUTE TO MAJOR MORRISON

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Major Morrison for his dedicated public service to his country, community, and family.

Reverend Major Morrison, III is son of Marian and Major Morrison, Jr. Reverend Morrison grew up in New York City where he attended Medgar Evers College with a concentration in Liberal Arts. He then transferred to New York City Community College and studied Mechanical Engineering.

In 1979, Reverend Morrison joined the United States Merchant Marines and served until 1998. He was elevated to the post of Watch Engineer. Reverend Morrison served one tour duty in Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield in 1991. After serving his country he started working at the Veterans Medical Center in New York City where he is presently a Systems Boiler Plant Operating Engineer.

Reverend Morrison was called into the ministry at an early age. He was baptized in the Methodist tradition and faith. Reverend Morrison was a choir member; Boy Scout; and served as an usher. Reverend Morrison has preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ in various denominational settings: Baptist; Methodist; and Presbyterian.